

THIRTEENTH YEAR.

DEATH'S AWFUL HARVEST.

The Catholic Convent at Belleville, Ill., Destroyed.

Twenty-Two Pupils and Five Sisters Perish in the Flames.

Leaping From Third-Story Windows to Death.

Harrowing Scenes at the Smouldering Ruins.

Huddled Together to Be Devoured By the Awful Flames and Burned Into Unrecognizable Masses.

A FRIGHTFUL CALAMITY.

FIRE IN A CONVENT.

ST. LOUIS, January 6.—Details of the burning of the Institute of the Immaculate Conception, Sisters of Notre Dame, at Belleville, Ill., last night, are still meagre. There were about sixty pupils in the school, ranging from 20 years to full grown, all girls, and several teachers, besides other inmates of the building. The fire is said to have started near the third story, which is used as a dormitory, and an attempt was made by the sisters to extinguish it, but this failing, efforts were made to remove the pupils. The flames spread so rapidly, however, that no order could be preserved, panic seized both the children and sisters, and it was a wild confused rush to escape. Forty or more pupils are known to have got out, or were taken from the building and given shelter in neighboring houses, but several, in their flight, jumped from windows and were either killed or badly injured. Miss Mary Campbell, a teacher, of East St. Louis, leaped from the third story and died in a few minutes. Another, name not ascertained, climbed to the roof portico, and either fell or was blown off and fatally injured. Among the injured by jumping were Daisy Eberman, whose residence is four miles from Belleville; Agnes Schneider and Lou Lett, of St. Louis; Fanny Rukar, of Washington, Mo.; Sister Reparat, Sister Stylija, Sister Marissa, and 15 or 20 smaller pupils; also Sister Mary Jerome, the lady superior, was missing at a late hour last night, and it is feared perished in the building. Searching parties were at work to-day, and further information was obtained later.

The scene of the fire was one of the wildest excitement and terror. The streets in the city were thronged with people anxious to be of service, but owing to the rapid spread of the flames, they were helpless to render any aid. While the terrified and panic-stricken parents rushed frantically around in search of their missing children, wailing over their supposed loss. The fire department was of little avail against the mad rush of the surging flames, and in an hour the entire building was a mass of ruins.

A later dispatch, just received from Belleville, says the bodies of twenty-two pupils and five teachers, including the mother superior, have either been recovered or are known to be in the ruins.

A dispatch from Belleville to the associated press gives further particulars of the frightful calamity. A visit to the scene this morning found the fire department still on duty, endeavoring to quench the flames so as to preserve in recognizable shape the bodies. When the ruins were sufficiently cool volunteers went to work to bring out the bodies. It was a terrible sight. At times the searchers would find two or three charred masses huddled closely together, seemingly seeking protection in one another from the advancing flames. Two bodies were found in rear part of the building, hurled into an unrecognizable mass, but the majority were found beneath where the dormitory was situated.

They seemed to have sought shelter in this room too late to recognize that their escape was impossible. The flames beneath eating away the supports left down the floor into the seething vortex of fire and smoke. The mass of life is much greater than mentioned in last night's brief dispatch. Instead of being two, as at first supposed, the total known deaths is twenty-seven, twenty-two of which are pupils and five sisters, among the latter the sister superior. On the fourth floor the pupil boarders with three sisters slept, on the third floor the remaining sisters slept, and on the second or floor above the mother superior, an armed orphan or half orphan slept. On the second floor the inmates escaped.

Following is a list of the saved: Annie Schlemmizer, Mamie Fitzgerald, Anna Frankie, Maggie Donohue, Ossa Montgomery, Emily Fournie. On this floor also were the following candidates for the veil, who escaped: Miss Josephine, Miss Bridget, Miss Johanna, Miss Gretcher, Miss Eliza. The missing are: Martha Maunel, of Carondelet, Mo.; Mary Bartella, Miss Josephine Ploude, daughter of County Commissioner Ploude, of Centerville station, Ill.; Lotta Pierson, of St. Louis; Susie Wetma, of St. Louis; Emma Stark, of Carondelet, Ill.; Annie Scaling, of St. Louis; Agnes Scaling, of St. Louis; Lizzie Iach, of Centerville station; Laura Thompson, of Chester, Ill.; Mamie Pulel, of Columbia, Ill.; Minnie Bartley, Belleville; Hilda Hammel, of Trenton, Ill.; Emily Leonard, of Trenton; Virginia Heintzelman, of Belleville; Kittie Arhana, of Vandalla; Gertrude Struch, of Germany; Mary Bien, of Belleville; Mary Manning, of St. Louis; Delphia Schlentzner, of Belleville; Superior Mary Jerome and Sisters Agnesia and Edwina.

Miss Bailey was a granddaughter of Col. John Thomas, of this city. Sister Mary Jerome, known in the world as Barbara Heil, was born at Pittsburg, Pa. Sister Madria, known as Jennie Riley, was born near Milwaukee. Sister Edwina, known as Bridget McCaffrey, was born in Ireland, and Sister Agnesia, known as Margaret Shanahan, was born in New Orleans.

The fire had its origin from the furnace in the basement. The extreme cold weather retarded the work of the firemen. Daisy Eberman was slightly injured. Agnes Schneider jumped from a window but is not dangerously injured. Lou

Matt is quite badly hurt. Gena Horn and Fannie Bunker are seriously but not fatally injured.

At four o'clock this afternoon there had been eleven bodies recovered from the ruins and the Sisters and friends of the unfortunate had succeeded in identifying the following:

Identified—Miss Werman, Miss Mary Strunk, Miss Manning, Miss Heintzelmann, Miss Eisch, Miss Pulzer.

All that now remains of the convent of the Immaculate Conception is the charred and broken walls, and in the debris there yet remain the bodies of several other unfortunate victims. The buildings and furnishings were valued at from \$65,000 to \$75,000; insured for \$25,000.

OTHER FIRES.

WINONA, January 6.—Brooks Bros' elevator at Monnaka, eighteen miles above Winona, was burned at 2 o'clock this morning, together with a four-story dwelling near by and a hotel across the road. Loss, \$50,000; insured for \$10,000. The elevator contained over 30,000 bushels of grain, chiefly wheat and barley.

WHEELING, W. Va., January 6.—A fire, believed to be of incendiary origin, broke out this morning in the extensive brick building occupied by Bixley Bros., as a wagon factory; Dobbs & Reisinger's hat wood works, and Betz & Trading's planing mill. Though the fire department was promptly on hand the weather was so cold it could do little and the fire was finally checked by the bursting of the steam heating pipes in the building allowing the steam to escape. The loss of Bixley Bros. is \$15,000, principally on machinery, fully insured. The other losses are \$20,000, no insurance. The thermometer was 10 degrees below zero.

Chief Dunning, of the fire department, had one ear frozen solid and several others had to have their clothing cut off in pieces after the fire.

ST. LOUIS, January 6.—A brief report from Jerseyville, Illinois, says, the court house and jail were burned to-night, and four prisoners in the latter were suffocated to death.

CRIME AND CRIMINALS.

ALL DISPOSED OF.

TOMBSTONE, Arizona, January 6.—Big Dan was captured yesterday, and DeLaney was killed. This completes the list of the five Bisbee murderers.

THE GILMORE CASE. LINCOLN, January 6.—In the Gilmore case at York the dying declaration of W. H. Armstrong was introduced yesterday. The state rested the case and the court adjourned until to-morrow morning.

COX ACQUITTED. SAN FRANCISCO, January 6.—Jerome B. Cox, who shot and killed McLaughlin, the millionaire, was acquitted by the police court judge yesterday.

PROBABLY MURDERED. ELMIRA, N. Y., January 6.—There is great excitement here over the discovery of the body of a young, well-dressed woman frozen solid in the ice of a stream in the suburbs. The body was recognized as that of a woman named Watkins who was at the homestead Monday with a man whom she had a quarrel. It is believed that the man murdered her and threw the body in the creek. An ugly gash on the woman's right temple indicates murder.

A WORTHLESS KOBBE. NEW YORK, January 6.—Edward H. Kobbe, clerk for Sperry & Barnes, who absconded after embezzling \$65,000 belonging to his employers, has been arrested in a suit brought against him by the firm for recovery of the money. Bail was fixed at \$25,000.

The Louisiana Lottery Mats. NEW ORLEANS, January 6.—Judge Pardee, of the United States circuit court, rendered an opinion yesterday in the case of the New Orleans national bank against Postmaster W. D. Merchant. The case came up on motion to dissolve the injunction against Postmaster Merchant, restraining him from interfering with mail matter addressed to the bank, such action having been taken by Merchant in obedience to the postmaster general's order, on the ground that letters were intended for the Louisiana Lottery company, who had been denied the use of the mails to carry on the lottery business. The court held that the scheme denounced by law in that of the distribution of moneys through the mails by use of false or fraudulent representations. The facts found against the New Orleans national bank are outside of the law, but the defendant cannot be held responsible for obeying orders of his superior officer. The court decided in favor of the bank, decreeing that it is entitled to the full and free use of the mails, and further ordered the motion to dissolve the injunction be denied.

Bishop Sharp Alarmed. SALT LAKE, January 6.—The monthly meeting of the Salt Lake Mormon priesthood was held yesterday morning. Bishop John Sharp said that while in Washington recently he had seen enough to convince him that no power but the Almighty could save the Mormon people. If God didn't pilot the ship it would go down.—Apotles Tlatchor and Richards are now on the way to Washington, the church organ says, to attend to Utah affairs.

A Strange Wounding. JOLIET, Ill., January 6.—Mrs. Haycock, head cook at the Auburn house, who was brutally assaulted with a knife some weeks ago by a man named Freestone, who inflicted two or three desperate gashes on her throat, yesterday court order a license to marry her would-be murderer. Neither one will talk about the matter.

No Light. PITTSBURGH, January 6.—The steamboat inspectors have begun an investigation of the cause of the disaster to the steamer Burton at Davis Island dam last Wednesday. Pilot Morris testified that on the left hand of the channel there is an iron frame for a light, and witness says a light was always there until the night of the accident, and that the cause of the collision was the want of such a light.

The Late Dr. Lasker. NEW YORK, January 6.—The autopsy on the body of Dr. Lasker shows that he died of heart disease of aggravated form.

Galveston, January 6.—Dr. Lasker's heron, Morris Lasker, who is one of the leading merchants of this city, left for New York yesterday afternoon. The

flags in Galveston were at half-mast yesterday, and many wholesale houses closed their doors as a tribute to the dead statesman.

THE WINTRY BLAST.

The Wave Going East and South.

CHICAGO, January 6.—The weather has moderated considerably to-day. At midnight the thermometer indicated 6 below. Advances from other points in the north-west seem to indicate a rising temperature.

CHARLESTON, S. C., January 6.—The temperature at four this morning was 14 degrees above, the coldest in 148 years.

PETERSBURG, Va., January 6.—In exposed places last night it was five degrees below zero.

WHITEHALL, N. Y., January 6.—At seven o'clock this morning it was 30 below.

VERMONT, Vt., January 6.—Thirty-six below; coldest in ten years.

CINCINNATI, January 6.—Thermometer at four to eleven to-night.

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CONVENING OF CONGRESS.

The Fitz John Porter Bill to Be Reported To-Day.

The Pension Bill and Its Proposed Reduction.

The Senate to Struggle Over Those Rules.

An Indian Pow Wow On the Bills.

Something About Colorado Politics, Postoffice and Political Discussions.

WASHINGTON WAIFS.

THE WORK OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, January 6.—Congress reassembles to-morrow. Its organization is complete, committees formed, and machinery in order for beginning the work of legislation. Not much can be discovered to warrant an expression of opinion as to what the distinctive character of the session will be. A feeling of caution is prevalent in regard to political matters, and it is probable no purely political measure will be brought forward in the early weeks of the new year. Individual views upon financial and economic matters, as embodied in the great number and variety of bills already introduced and to be introduced, will be discussed probably without leading to any immediate action. The business first at hand in the senate, the revision of its rules, will be followed by consideration of the proposed joint rules, and the discussion will continue the greater part, if not all, the week. The work of the present week in the house promises to be of comparatively little interest.

On Tuesday General Slocum expects to report the Fitz-John Porter bill from the committee on military affairs, and an effort will be made during the week by its friends to have it considered. As some doubt has arisen in regard to the power of the committee on military affairs to sit on a bill during the holiday recess, the committee will again consider the Porter bill to-morrow, in order to prevent any delay that might otherwise occur when reported.

The sub-committee on pensions has presented to Commissioner Dudley for consideration some changes it proposes to be made in the pension laws. One of these is a reduction in the number of agencies where funds are disbursed from 18 to 10 or 12, to be at the most prominent commercial centers. Commissioner Dudley recommended that the number of examining boards be increased to about 400. At present three surgeons, who receive \$2 for each examination, constitute the board. There are between two and three hundred of these boards. The sub-committee favors an increase in the number but desires that the pay of the surgeons be \$2 for each examination of the first five cases and \$1 for each additional case examined per day. The commissioner is expected to give his opinion on the proposed changes to-morrow. The pension bill will no doubt be reported this week.

A caucus of the democratic members of the house is proposed for an early day, the object being to consider the policy of the party on subjects likely to come up during the winter.

A POLITICAL REVIEW.

Secretary Teller, ex-Senator Chaffee, Senator Bowen, of Colorado, and others held a pleasant meeting last night at the Riggs house, at which the political affairs in that state were canvassed. It is probable that ex-Senator Chaffee will have a clear seat, which will be vacated by Senator Hill at the next meeting of the Colorado legislature, and it is said that he has already served due notice on Senator Hill of his intention. Ex-Senator Chaffee and ex-Governor Rout, of that state, have purchased a half interest in the Denver Tribune and the party organ will be conducted no doubt in the former's interest. Secretary Teller has not said that he will support the bill, but his friends state that he will support his friend ex-Senator Chaffee, who stood aside when Mr. Teller was made secretary of the interior.

THE BIG INJUNS.

Leporheche, one of the rival Creek chieftains, accompanied by Chief Cheeta, Delegate Hodge and Missionary Callahan, called at the Indian bureau yesterday. Delegate Hodge presented credentials and a letter of introduction from Leporheche. Leporheche said that another delegate of his faction would arrive Monday. The commissioner will then listen to their state-ments.

A PENSION FOR ALL.

Congressman D. B. Henderson, of Iowa, has prepared a bill which proposes to give a pension to every soldier who has served six months or more in any war of the United States, provided he suffered any disabilities, the compensation not to be affected by rank.

A RENT BILL.

Representative Anderson will introduce in the house to-morrow, a bill making the same allowance for rent and fuel for postmasters of third class offices as first and second class.

JUDGE McCRARY'S SUCCESSOR.

The resignation of Judge McCrary was received by the president to-day. As it does not take effect before March it is not likely his successor will be appointed for some time.

NO LOTTERY TICKETS.

The employees of the postoffice department were notified by the postmaster-general yesterday that the purchase of lottery tickets hereafter would be regarded as sufficient ground for removal.

THE SUFFICIENT POSTOFFICE.

Dr. Martin Clark and L. D. Eowler, of St. Martin, Neb., are here urging the resignation of Postmaster Buchanan at that place.

The Sultan's Guns.

New York, January 6.—B. Bartlett and others have brought suit in the United States court to restrain Horatio A. Hunt and the American National Bank

of Providence, from using certain warehouse receipts for guns, sabres, etc., stored with them on behalf of the Sultan of Turkey, or interfering with said receipts, which have been entrusted to them, except by delivery to a receiver appointed by the court to determine the ownership of the property.

Blown to Pieces.

STILLWATER, Minn., January 6.—Late yesterday afternoon the boiler in C. N. Nelson & Co.'s planing mill at Lakeland exploded, wrecking the building and killing McCummins, yard boss. The adjoining building caught fire, but was readily extinguished. Loss, \$10,000.

Killed by the Cars.

ELMIRA, N. Y., January 6.—Miss Clara Thurston, sister of Judge A. S. Thurston, aged 83, formerly a prominent educator and author, and for many years principal of Thurston's female seminary, was killed by the cars on her way to church this morning.

A Heavy Failure.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 6.—The failure of the Dietrich company, wholesale bag and canvas manufacturers, is announced. Liabilities, \$376,000; assets, \$34,800. They owe \$100,000 in New York.

Iron Prospects.

PHILADELPHIA, January 6.—Secretary Swank of the American Iron and Steel association estimates the production of pig iron in the United States as equal to that of 1882, being 4,223,323 tons. The consumption has been about 4,948,323 tons. The consumption of rails in 1883 was about 300,000 tons less than in 1882.

England's Education.

ST. LOUIS, January 6.—Alexander Sullivan, president of the Irish National league, lectured to-night on "How England has Educated." The lecture was in effect a reply to the assertion that the invasion of Ireland was in behalf of civilization, and that ignorance is a voluntary characteristic of Ireland.

LIFE AT FORT ROBINSON.

Amid the Snow and Winter Gales—The Troop H Ball.

Correspondence of THE BEE.

FORT ROBINSON, Neb., January 1.—We are not entirely snow bound, here in this extreme frontier post, though the hills and valleys are mantled with snow, and ten inches of ice covers the White river. The buckboard still runs to the stage station, and brings us our BEB every day except Tuesday, when we read Saturday's edition, always overflowing with good things, and equal to any Sunday paper in the west.

There is necessarily a great deal of routine in a garrison life, but a well ordered routine saves from idleness and makes time pass rapidly, even in the slowly moving months of midwinter.

The holidays at Fort Robinson have been brighter than usual. Balls and excursions have been busy in bringing remembrances from friends abroad, and in replenishing the kitchens and storerooms in the garrison. And, to add to the attractions, we have had a Christmas tree at Captain Hamilton's residence, and one of the most elaborate company balls ever given in the west at Captain Hamilton's company quarters, the Troop of the Fifth cavalry. There has been a generous rivalry among the various companies here to excel in this matter of entertaining, and as the last is always the best, H Troop surpassed all its rivals. The long quarters were elaborately decorated with bunting, flags and mountain pine, covering the log walls with a mass of color, relieved here and there by strings of evergreen. Sabres, arranged in various devices, hung on the walls or depended from the ceiling; cavalry guidons hid the brown pillars; Engravings, wreathed in flags and green, gave the room a homelike and inviting appearance. The hall was crowded from half past eight, when the music sounded the opening march, until early in the morning, fully 250 guests being present, including nearly every officer in the garrison and their families.

The supper table was a marvel of the cook's and decorator's art. Around its sides stood white jacketed and aproned waiters with folded arms awaiting orders. In the center was a triple pyramid of cakes, the topmost one bearing the picture of the ever popular Captain Hamilton and the lower one the name of Lieut. S. A. Adair. Omaha and Chicago markets contributed fresh oysters, fruits, nuts and delicacies of various descriptions, arranged with the hand of the artist to tempt the appetite and to please the eye. A more bounteous and delicious repast was never served in Fort Robinson and it was discussed by all present as a triumph of good management and excellent taste. After supper followed a promenade and then dancing was resumed and continued until nearly reveille.

Pettit Larceny.

Wm. Anderson was brought before Judge Bencke Saturday and charged with petty larceny. He pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail.

The crime for which he was sent up was committed on the 22d of December, when he stole a silver butter-dish, pickle-caster, and a sugar-bowl from the premises of J. W. Rose, a mail agent. Mr. Rose recovered all of the stolen property with the exception of the cover of the sugar-bowl.

A Coming Dividend.

Last fall, says the Wall Street News, when a would-be purchaser of railroad stock called upon Russell Sage and asked him regarding the outlook of certain stock, Mr. Sage replied: "Splendid idea! That stock is certain to rise 15 per cent."

"Upon what do you base your calculations?"

"Upon the immense crops to be moved along that line."

The other day the same gentlemen again interviewed Mr. Sage regarding the same stock, and the great financier replied:

"Best outlook in the world for that

stock! Certain to advance 15 per cent." "Do you base your calculations upon last fall's crops?"

"No, sir; it's going to be an open winter, and the line will save enough in snow-plows to declare a dividend of 5 per cent."